



MICHAEL P. ROSS
BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

October 26, 2010

Joanne Massaro
Chief of Public Works & Transportation
1 City Hall Square, Rm 714
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Commissioner Massaro,

In 2008, the Council and Mayor passed a law that required waste haulers to offer recycling to businesses in Boston. That same law also requires all commercial haulers permitted in the City of Boston to report the total percentage of their commercial customers that recycle, and the amount of waste and recyclables collected.

In May of this year, I filed a 17F requesting the data that commercial waste haulers are required to report to the city. After receiving the information earlier this month, I noticed three companies operating in Boston that appear to not collect the data that they are legally required to submit to the city. These companies are Barry Bros. Disposal LLC, F.W. Russell and Sons Disposal, and James W. Grant Co. Inc.

The purpose of this law was to demand basic standards among trash haulers and to promote minimum guidelines that will ensure greater recycling and sustainable practices.

At present, according to the data collected, Boston's average commercial recycling rate is only 14.56 percent. It is important that we hold waste haulers accountable to increase this rate and improve our city's overall recycling numbers.

As you know, failure to report recycling data to the city shall result in fines and ultimately revocation of the hauling permit. I ask that the Public Works Department comply with CBC Chapter XXI and issue the penalties called for to the three companies that failed to report their recycling rates to the department.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Ross
President, Boston City Council

Cc: Members of the Boston City Council, City of Boston Clerk
DISTRICT 8

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